



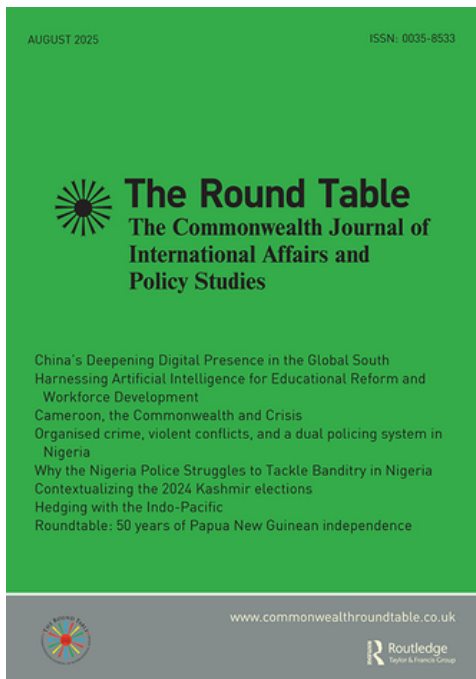
THE ROUND TABLE

*The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs
and Policy Studies*

August 2025

FROM THE JOURNAL

CRIME, CONFLICT AND POLICING IN AFRICA



In our current issue of the journal just out we feature articles on Africa

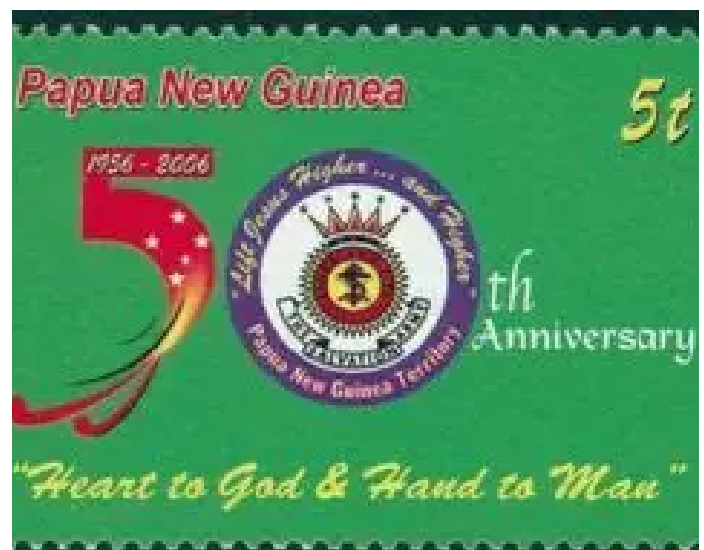
- Elena Frogameni examines the [Commonwealth Intervention in Cameroon's Anglophone Conflict](#)
- We also feature two in-depth pieces on **Nigeria**: Demi Babalola and Ebimboere Seiyefa study [organised crime, violent conflicts, and the movement towards a dual policing system in Nigeria](#), while **Nigeria** features in a second piece by Onyedikachi Madueke looking at [Why the Police Struggles to Tackle Banditry in Nigeria](#)
- Daya Thussu looks at [China's Deepening Digital Presence in the Global South](#)
- Tamsin Deasey Weinstein and Geneve Phillip-Durham explore [Artificial Intelligence use in Educational Reform and Workforce Development in the Cayman Islands](#)
- We look to [Lessons from the past and emerging trends from the 2024 Kashmir elections](#) with the help of Aurif Muzafar and Burhan Majid
- Gautam K. Rajesh and Madhumati Deshpande examine [why Southeast Asia might benefit from embracing the Indo-Pacific construct](#)

TO ACCESS THE JOURNAL, VISIT THE [WEBSITE](#)

ROUND TABLE ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IDENTITY, DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND DIVERSITY – 50 YEARS ON FROM INDEPENDENCE

Our special round table on [Papua New Guinea](#) begins with Henrietta McNeill-Stowers and Theresa Meki looking at [Celebrations and growing pains: 50 years on](#), followed by Deveni Temu providing a personal recollection on [Australian citizenship and Papuan identity](#). Next up we have Ronald May on the [Political and Social Development in Papua New Guinea](#), while Mercy Masta, adds her own reflection on the struggle on [Women and Nationhood in Papua New Guinea](#). An overview of the ['Anti-Corruption Efforts in Papua New Guinea'](#) are examined by Michael Kabuni, Anthony Regan looks at the [relations between Bougainville and Papua New Guinea](#) and Michael A. Mel studies how [Art influences the building of culturally resilient communities](#). Finally, Natasha Turia analyses a possible step-up in [Papua New Guinea-Australia migration](#).



RT OPINIONS

The opinions in this issue cover the usual diverse range of topics, including:

- **ASEAN: Space and Role in Global Disorder** is an exploration of ASEAN's almost 60-year history and its current role by Munir Majid
- After 25 years an overall **Settlement of the Chagos saga** is in sight as explained by David Snoxell, former UK diplomat
- Mani Shankar Aiyar addresses **India-Pakistan: A Plea for Peace**
- **Ramaphosa's Contretemps in the White House** by Roger Southall
- **South Africa's declining Military Capability** by Helmoed Heitman
- **Privacy vs Security: A Human Rights dilemma in Techno-dystopias** is the subject of Pranjal Verma's piece

For the full list of opinion pieces, visit the website [here](#).



RT BOOK REVIEWS



Book reviews in this issue include:

- Aminur Rahman reviews **Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in Bangladesh**, by Md Rafiqul Islam (Routledge India, 2024)
- Sheen Thankalayam reviews **Why Bharat Matters**, by Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Rupa Publications, New Delhi, 2024)

To read the book reviews, visit the website [here](#).

To read Commonwealth Bookshelf visit [here](#).

FROM THE WEBSITE

THE CHALLENGE FOR THE NEW COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL

H.E. Shirley Botchwey took office as the seventh Secretary-General of the Commonwealth on 1 April. In this article for the website, the doyen of Commonwealth observers, Richard Bourne, looks at the challenges facing her at a time when aid budgets and contributions to international organisations are being cut back, and multilateralism is in retreat. 'For the new Secretary-General ... this is a recovery situation', he suggests, but he also sees opportunities for the Commonwealth, especially in 'combating the climate catastrophe and underpinning genuine development for people in the Commonwealth's poorer states'. See [here](#)



RT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

THE HARRY HODSON PRIZE

The Round Table is inviting applications for the 2025 Harry Hodson prize, named after a distinguished former editor of the journal. The prize – for the best essay on any Commonwealth-related topic – is open to anyone who will be aged under 30 and a registered student, at the closing date, 31 December 2025. The word length is 1000 to 2000 words. The prize is £1,000 and the opportunity to publish in The Round Table journal. Details of past winners and how to apply can be found [here](#).



SELECTED EVENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SIR SHRIDATH 'SONNY' RAMPHAL



A moving memorial was held on 1 July for Shridath Ramphal, the second Commonwealth Secretary-General, who died in August last year at his home in Barbados. Many members of the RT board joined former colleagues, Commonwealth supporters and friends of 'Sonny' in the Queen's Chapel, St James's Palace, to remember an extraordinary leader and diplomat who significantly raised the profile and much extended the influence of the modern Commonwealth.

In the afternoon, **Sir Ronald Sanders**, Sonny's son-in-law, delivered the 5th **Patsy Robertson Memorial Lecture**, assessing Sir Shridath's outstanding contribution to international diplomacy and to Commonwealth affairs. This will be published in a future issue of the Journal.

More information on the event can be found [here](#).

FROM THE ARCHIVE: 25 YEARS AGO

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Recent years have seen an alarming erosion of freedom of expression throughout the Commonwealth, and a horrifying level of intimidation of journalists and broadcasters; at the same time disinformation is multiplied and spread like wildfire by the algorithms of social media multinationals. In this prescient article from 25 years ago, veteran Commonwealth journalist Derek Ingram lamented the Commonwealth's lack of formal commitment to freedom of expression, and highlighted even then a general deterioration in the quality of the media across the Commonwealth, with particular threats from governments and multinationals.

Read the article [here](#)

